

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 032021Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1828

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1287

EXDIS

FOR S S/S AND ARA ONLY

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S TRIP - BILATERAL COOPERATION: PORPOSED
SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

REF: CARACAS 1114

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADING EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC LEADERS AND CU ARA DIRECTOR CHAPLIN CONVINCED US THAT VENEZUELAN INTEREST IN A COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION IS INTENSE. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND A TWO TRACK APPROACH I E, USE THE AUTHORITY EMBASSY ALREADY HAS TO CONCLUDE AN UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATIVE ACADEMIC EXCHANGES, AND B) REQUEST IMMEDIATE DEPAR APPROVAL FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A SCIENCE BILATERAL. END SUMMARY.

2. RE A) ABOVE CHAPLIN POINTS OUT THAT THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE DEPT OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, WOULD REPLACE THE EXISTING ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM FUNDED UNDER THE FULBRIGHT-HAYS ACT. IT HAS ALREADY RECEIVED STRONG INFORMAL APPROVAL BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS. IN THIS SITUATION, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE EMBASSY IS ALREADY AUTHORIZED TO CONCLUDE AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE COOPERATIVE ACADEMIC EXCHANGES AND TO MAKE AN
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ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR PLANS TO CARRY OUT THE US PORTION OF THE PROGRAM,

CONTINGENT ONLY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. PLEASE CONFIRM.

3. IF OUR UNDERSTANDING IS CORRECT, I WOULD UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATELY TO CONTACT THE MI ISTRY OF EDUCATION TO PREPARE A MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH COULD BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.

4. AS EMPHASIZED REF, VENEZUELAN INTEREST IN THE US SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS IS INTENSE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS INTEREST WOULD BEST BE RECOGNIZED THRU A SCIENCE BILATERAL SIMILAR TO THOSE WITH BRAZIL OR ARGENTINA. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE COMPATIBLE WITH EXISTING US LEGISLZTION AND COULD BE EXECUTED WITHOUT OBTAINING NEW FUNDING AUTHORITY FROM CONGRESS. IN THE INTEREST OF EXPEDITING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOV AND OF PROMPT EXECUTION OF A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAM, REQUEST DEPT'S AUTHORIZATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEGOTIATION OF SCIENCE BILATERAL.

5. WITH THE AUTHORIZATIONIN HAND, WE COULD QUICKLY BEGIN DISCUSSION WITH THE GOV TO CONCLUDE A SCIENCE BILATERAL OR, IF TIME IS TOO SHORT , AGREE TO NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO AN AGREEMENT FOR LATER SIGNATURE. IN EITHER CASE, AN ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE MADE TO THE EFFECT THAT IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE THAT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TECHNOLOGY PLAY IN THE PROGRESS OF OUR PEOPLES, THE TWO MINISTERS (SIGNED) OR (CONFIRMED THEIR GOVTS' INTENTIONS TO ENTER INTO) AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES ETC.

6. EMBASSY REQUESTS PROMPT DEPT COMMENT ON THE USEFULNESS OF THE TWO TRACK APPROACH SEPARATING THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE AND THE SCIENCE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA01287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760041-0074
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760289/aaaadabp.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 CARACAS 1114
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S TRIP - BILATERAL COOPERATION: PORPOSED SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006